

theSpartanDaily.com Spartan Daily

Volume 131, Issue 49

Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER

03 2008

STUDENT CULTURE

PAGE 5



Got Milk?

SPORTS

PAGE 4



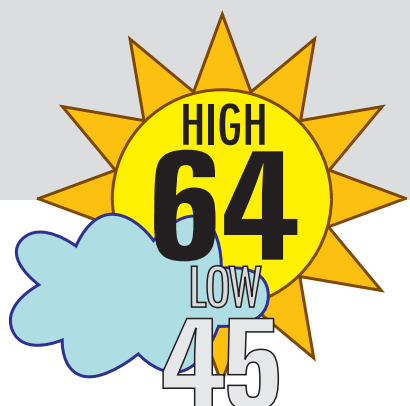
Claustrophobia not an issue at SJSU basketball games

OPINION

PAGE 7



A look at opting in or out of organ donation



TH	F	SA	SU
65	66	68	64
50	45	46	45

Showing solidarity against terrorism



Pavan Kumar Yalamanchili, a general engineering graduate student, writes a message on a poster in remembrance of victims of the attacks in Mumbai, India, during a gathering near the Event Center on Tuesday.

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

JASON LE MIERE
Staff Writer

Like many SJSU students, Nishat Deshpande spent his Thanksgiving glued to the television.

Rather than the tradition of watching football, however, Deshpande was tuned in to the news, watching as his home city of Mumbai, India, was attacked by terrorists, and fear-

ing for the safety of his parents.

Deshpande's parents survived the attacks. Seven of his friends' friends were among nearly 200 people who did not.

"My parents work two blocks away from where that happened," said Deshpande, a junior mechanical engineering major. "They had been to work that day. So it was much worse me calling them

up and telling them please go home."

Deshpande was one of the 70-plus students who attended a mourning next to the Seventh Street barbecue pits on Tuesday for the victims of the Mumbai attacks.

Students lined up before boards of images displaying pictures of the damage and the victims of the attacks to pray for those affected.

"This event is organized, basically, for the people who died in Mumbai in the terror attacks," said Shripal Pandya, a senior general engineering major and co-organizer of the event. "We are praying for the people who died in that."

The mourners said that this was their way of connecting to those

►► **MUMBAI**page2

South Campus housing scheduled to be knocked down

PETER HIRONAKA
Staff Writer

For the past three years, an area on SJSU's South Campus has gone unused and untouched. The 58 low-rise, two-bedroom apartments known as Spartan Village are likely to see their last days as they are scheduled to be demolished in mid-December of this year.

According to the school's planning, design and construction campus master plan, the 62-acre South Campus, where Spartan Village is situated, will likely house most of the university's recreational activities.

Tony Valenzuela, the associate vice president of facilities development and operations, said the school abandoned the housing in order to create

a more vibrant student life.

Valenzuela said that the plan to close Spartan Village after Spring 2005 paralleled the opening of Campus Village.

"The site will be used, for the foreseeable future, as parking for South Campus activities," he said.

Plans for additional housing on the main campus are in the works, he said.

"We anticipate that we would add an additional 3,000 beds where the current red bricks and Joe West sit," Valenzuela said.

Joseph Sila, a senior accounting and marketing major, said future renovations to on-campus housing could be coming at a good time.

►► **VILLAGE**page2



The Spartan Village housing complex, located next to Spartan Stadium along 10th Street.

PETER HIRONAKA / Spartan Daily

Deck the park with fake snow, Christmas time is here in SJ

PAGE 8



Students and community members walk past the Paseo de San Antonio Ferris wheel on Tuesday night as part of Christmas in the Park.

WILLIAM COOLEY / Spartan Daily

Students and alumni present their business ideas for cash and prizes

YA-AN CHAN
Staff Writer

In the midst of hiring freezes and job cuts, the fifth annual Neat Ideas Fair returns Thursday to showcase business ideas of the SJSU community.

"In the downturn, I think entrepreneurship becomes even more important," said Anuradha Basu, a professor in business organization and management and the director of Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship. "It's particularly relevant at this time to get students an opportunity to present their ideas, to work their ideas, and to develop their ideas further to implement them."

The fair, which Basu started in 2004, welcomes SJSU students and alumni of all majors and backgrounds to present business ideas. Basu estimated that 95 teams will present during Thursday's fair.

It is hosted by the Silicon Valley Center for Entrepreneurship, an organized research and training unit of SJSU's College of Business.

Basu said the fair serves two main purposes: to promote creativity and

innovation by providing a platform for students to present and receive feedback, and to bring students of different disciplines together, which can be a problem at SJSU.

"It's a commuter school - students come and go," she said. "There are very few opportunities for students to get to know each other, to form teams and to work together."

The fair will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Barrett Ballroom in the Student Union and admission is free.

The ideas will be judged by 17 representatives from various companies and groups.

The best poster board and visual display will win the best exhibit award. Exhibitors may also enter two other competitions: the elevator pitch competition, where participants have a maximum of two minutes to orally present their ideas, and the executive summary challenge, where participants present their ideas in a one-page written summary. Cash and other prizes worth up to a total \$3,150 will be

►► **IDEA**page3

MUMBAI▶ Many students had connection to victims

affected back home.

“We are away from our home, so this is what we can do,” said Ankur Thakur, a senior electrical engineering major. “We want to let them know we are united. That’s why we came here.”

Many of the mourners had a personal connection to the attacks, including Thakur, who has parents and a friend living in Mumbai.

“One of my friends escaped from that attack,” he said. “He just went early to his office. It was his regular session, but fortunately he missed that attack and he’s safe now.”

Simply knowing someone who had died through a friend made the attacks seem much more intense.

“One of my friend’s cousins died in this,” said Rajan Patel, a chemical engineering graduate student. “Actually he was in (the) Taj (Mahal) hotel during the attack. He was shot in his lung and

he was taken to the hospital and after he died.”

Another student said his roommate knew one of the rescue workers who died in the attacks trying to save the lives of others.

“He said he played golf with them,” said Abshisek Purohit, a freshman industrial and systems engineering major. “He just met him before coming here. It’s kind of scary.”

Other individuals had grown up in the area where the attacks occurred.

“Those were the places we used to go regularly when we were graduating there,” said Kejur Kulkarni, a senior electrical engineering major. “Those are the places where we used to hang out, so it’s a big shock.”

After more than an hour of people paying their own private respects to the victims of the attacks, the gathering was called together. In unison, they recited

the words of “Jana Gana Mana,” India’s national anthem.

Also on the lawn was a space for students to write messages for others to read. The mood of the messages was one of defiance.

One read, “Hope cannot be terrorized.”

Many of those who had lived in Mumbai before coming to study in the U.S. said they were not afraid to go back.

“I was planning,” said Sumit Kallo, an industrial engineering graduate student, “but now the attacks make me want to go there more because I want to see my friends and everything who witnessed this and be there for them.”

Others said that by not going back home, they would be letting the terrorists win.

“We are going back to Mumbai this December,” Thakur said. “If we stay afraid, their motive will get satisfied. They attack to discourage us.”

VILLAGE▶ Spartan Village set to be demolished

“The campus does need some upgrading, so it’s only for the better I hope,” he said.

The school has hired Staples Construction Company Inc. to carry out the demolition.

David Buck, an employee at the construction company, said that in order to demolish Spartan Village, they will bring in an additional contracting company, Inland Flooring Contractors.

“Basically, what we do is we manage and assess the project to see what necessary steps are needed for it,” he said. “We then walk with a series of subcontractors at the site to give them an outline of the work.”

Buck said they picked Inland

Flooring Contractors because they were the lowest-bidding company. The project is estimated to take four weeks, he said.

Mario Lomez, a junior graphic design major, said the aftermath of Spartan Village’s demolition will benefit some students living on campus more than others.

“The school’s housing is probably going to give priority to the athletes, so some people are going to be left out,” Lomez said. “Incoming freshmen and returning students might be left out now.”

Sila said there will be a price to pay with all the renovations being done.

“There is already a lot of people not getting places in the

apartments, so in the short term it’s bad, but in the long term it’s good,” he said.

Valenzuela added that the area currently known as Spartan Village is to be turned into a parking lot.

San Jose Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Representative Matt Cano said that football games at Spartan Stadium potentially bring in anywhere from 1,000 to 1,200 filled parking spaces per game.

Staples Construction has completed more than 100 projects for SJSU, including the renovation of Spartan Stadium, the Computer Center, chemical laboratories and classrooms, according to their Web site.

SPARTAGUIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

03 TODAY

Study Abroad

An informational meeting about study abroad opportunities at SJSU.

9 a.m. in Clark Hall, room 100G. For more information, call the Study Abroad Office at 924-5931.

World AIDS Film Series

Watch and discuss films about HIV/AIDS in the United States. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mosaic Cross Cultural Center.

Contact Melinda Chu-Yang at mchuyang@email.sjsu.edu

School of Library & Information Science Colloquia Series

Bryan McCann discusses “I’m a Reference Librarian ... So How Did I Wind Up Here?”

12 to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall, room 302.

Contact Marcia Laughrey at 924-2490 or laughrey@slis.sjsu.edu

Future Teachers!

Open to all undergraduate, graduate and credential students.

5:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Almaden Room.

Contact Melissa Abreu at melissa.abreu@gmail.com

04 THURSDAY

Neat Ideas Fair

An annual forum to promote creativity and entrepreneurship at SJSU by generating and highlighting “Neat” business ideas. Open to anyone affiliated with SJSU. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Union, Barrett Ballroom.

Contact Anuradha Basu at 924-3593 or basu_a@cob.sjsu.edu

Overcoming Stress

There are things we can do to manage our stressors and to use them to help us succeed. Discover some helpful coping techniques and find a little bit of peace. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, room 118.

Contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

SOLES Potluck

Celebrate the end of the semester with a potluck dinner.

6:30 p.m. in the Student Union, Almaden Room.

Contact Jesus Gonzalez at sonec_831@yahoo.com

Like to Sing, Dance or Act?

Express your talent at Pilipino Culture Night.

7 p.m. in the University Theater.

Contact Diane Quintos at (760) 579-8431 or diancesquintos@yahoo.com

05 FRIDAY

Aerobicthon

An annual event featuring different types of aerobics, including cardio hip-hop, kickboxing, Zumba and Bollywood aerobics. Admission is \$5.

4 p.m. in the Spartan Complex Central, room 44.

Contact Carol Sullivan at 924-3022 or csullivan@kin.sjsu.edu

06 SATURDAY

E-Waste Recycling

Bring all your obsolete and broken office and home entertainment equipment to be safely recycled and kept out of our landfills. Proceeds to benefit the Santa Clara County Recycling Center. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Business Tower Parking Lot on 10th Street. For more information, call (800) 533-8414.

07 SUNDAY

E-Waste Recycling

Bring all your obsolete and broken office and home entertainment equipment to be safely recycled and kept out of our landfills. Proceeds to benefit the Santa Clara County Recycling Center. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Business Tower Parking Lot on 10th Street. For more information, call (800) 533-8414.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

Hats Off To The Grads

Make graduation a night to remember.
Make your dinner reservations today.



FLAMES

EATERY & BAR

Come Enjoy Flames Happy Hour Specials

Mon. - Thurs. 3:00-6:00 pm

\$3.00 - Beers, Well Drinks, House Wine

\$4.00 - Specialty Cocktails

Half Price - All Appetizers

SJSU Students & Faculty recieve 10% off with valid I.D.

88 South Fourth Street | 408-971-1960

On the corner of 4th and San Fernando
Across from the SJSU Library

Panelists promote HIV testing, communication with family to defend against virus

RIE NAKANISHI
Staff Writer

More people turned out to the second day of the three-day World AIDS Day event, as approximately 30 people gathered for the panel in which speakers discussed the importance of breaking down the communication barrier for AIDS issues.

Stephanie Bowens, the event organizer and a peer health educator in sexual and gender health, questioned the panelists about AIDS issues among the younger generation.

The three speakers on the panel were Melinda Chu-Yang, the wellness and health promotion coordinator from the SJSU Student Health Center, Vanae Tran, founder of Rock Your Awareness and an SJSU alumna, and James Smith, a representative from the Health Trust.

Rock Your Awareness is a nonprofit organization, which reaches out to young people

to raise awareness of AIDS and sexual health and empower them to take action.

The Heath Trust is a Silicon Valley-based organization that provides resource and support for HIV and AIDS patients.

Some panelists weren't able to attend because of their health condition.

"I really wanted to bring people from outside the campus so that (students) can see how (AIDS) would affect them in the real world," Bowens said. "The panel was successful. I really liked how (the panelists) emphasized on communication."

The three questions asked during the panel were: what can be done to stop the increase in rates of HIV infections among young people in America; the cultural awareness difference in AIDS and sexually transmitted infections between minority groups; and their behavior guidelines for young people

to protect themselves.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, an estimated 1.2 million people are living with HIV/AIDS in the United States as of the end of 2003, and 15 percent of them are young people between 13 and 24 years old.

Chu-Yang said the high rate of infection among the younger generation results from a lack of communication.

"People aren't talking about testing and are not talking to their partners because they are embarrassed and scared to talk to each other," Chu-Yang said. "We need to really focus on communicating with each other and understand each other."

Tran, as a Vietnamese-American, shared her experience of how topics such as AIDS, sex and sexuality were taboo growing up in her native culture.

She said she couldn't talk to her parents, teachers or friends

about sexual health when she first became sexually active. She said she researched and learned about it on her own.

Tran said becoming open to one's parents and being able to talk to them about sex-related topics is a process.

Tran said she would recommend that students talk to their parents by asking them about their dating scene and experience.

Melissa Wang, an open university student at the health science department and peer health education volunteer, said young people think that AIDS has nothing do with their lives.

"(Students) don't think they'll be affected by AIDS," she said. "It's always something other people have or whatever, so they might not take the precaution to protect themselves."

Wang said she has been getting tested for HIV since she was 19 years old.

If students are sexually active, whether or not they are in a relationship, getting tested can help "you know where both of you stand," she said.

All of the panelists emphasized the importance of breaking down the walls of communication and stressed the importance of getting tested for HIV.

"If you are sexually active, every six months, get tested," said Smith, from the Health Trust. "Not only you are saving yourself, you could be saving some one you are with."

As an HIV positive individual, he said he doesn't want anybody else to go through what he has gone through, having had to hear his diagnosis alone and tell his parents that he's HIV positive.

"I have to live each day knowing that I have a disease that, as of today, is not curable but manageable," Smith said. "(HIV/AIDS) happens to anyone, any

place, any religion ... You never want to go through that — I can't express that enough."

Viet Pham, a senior justice studies major, said he came to the panel because he got interested in AIDS awareness after taking a health class.

"What (the panelists) are trying to do is tell people to bring down the barriers," he said. "It's very understandable if you don't know what you got."

Although Pham said he has never been tested before, he realized how important it is to be educated about getting tested.

"Just go get tested. It's not going to hurt you," he said. "It just helps you. That's what it is."

The panelists said if students are scared to go through testing alone, they encourage them to go get tested with their friends or partners.

The Student Health Center offers free HIV testing for students.

Showing the impact of food on society

CORINNE SPECKERT
Staff Writer

The "Politics of Food" exhibition, featuring artwork about the political, social and economical perceptions of food in the world today, will be on display from Dec. 8 to 11 in the Art Building Gallery 3.

The exhibition is put on by students of the school of art and design's museum and gallery operations class, who chose the theme, put the event together and picked the artists.

"At the end of the year the final assignment is to fully create a show," said Nikki Ballere-Callnan, a spatial arts graduate student.

"We take, as a class, what we've learned the entire semester, and then we put it into a show," Ballere-Callnan said. "We all brainstormed and then narrowed it down to what we thought would be interesting for artists and the public."

She said that roughly 20 students responded to the open call, and from there they narrowed it down to 13 through a jury process.

"We chose work that represented the titles that we thought were interesting and reflected political and social issues and currently what's going on in our world," she said.

Ballere-Callnan said the exhibition will be a mixed-media show, showcasing a variety of paintings, photographs and sculptures.

Kirkman Amyx, a photography graduate student whose work was picked for the show, created a multi-image piece comprising layered photographs titled, "The Food Network," which use 7,200 separate captures of the TV channel, captured every minute over a five-day period. Each day's images are overlaid, he said, with the same moment from each day falling in the sample place creating a layered look that builds structure through repetition.

"I am utilizing repetition imagery to emphasize the excesses of media, especially of the 24/7 programming of specialty channels such as The Food Network," Amyx said.

He said one of the reasons he created this piece was to bring forth the main goal of TV programs: selling products.

"As a single channel of its own, the image of the Food Network speaks to the media's commercialization and commodification of food," he said. "While the network does provide entertainment and education, its real purpose is to sell advertising and promote products though the use of guise of cult-like celebrity chefs and food and cooking education."

Presley Martin, a fine arts and ceramics graduate student and curator of the exhibition, said Amyx's piece represented the ideal for which they were looking.

"I think it's relevant to our current life, our current world. Saturated by

the media and images, we're always bombarded with images," Martin said. "It's a nice way to consolidate that into a simple format. When you look at the piece you can start to see different patterns that emerge because it's all laid out by time. The horizontal access is every minute and the vertical is every hour."

Amyx's Food Network image is part a larger project. He said he spent a year capturing 69 Comcast cable channels, and was featured at the Herbert Sanders Gallery last month.

"When this call came up, I thought my single image for the Food Network may work for that and show the Food Network as media in general, which utilizes repetition," he said.

"The project, you could look at it like it's making a statement of how the media has created channels for all these niche markets in cable. I think it's absurd that we need a specialty channel such as the Food Network to watch 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

After the exhibition is installed, John Loomis, the director of the school of art and design, will award a "Director's Choice" to the artist whose work best interprets the theme.

Next Tuesday, Dec. 9, there will be a reception in Gallery 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., where artists will make appearances and cultural food will be served to go along with the theme of the show.



Kirkman Amyx, a photography graduate student, holds up his artwork "Food Network," which was created by capturing images of the cable channel every minute for a whole week. STEFAN ARMUJO / Contributing Photographer

IDEA

Fair organizers promote innovation, creativity with students

awarded to the winners, according to the fair's Web site.

Basu said one of the teams in the first fair was able to license its technology to a company and manufacture the product in China after making an appearance on the front page of the business section of the San Jose Mercury News.

"I would like to connect the good ideas with good mentors," she said.

While the exhibitors get the opportunity to present and articulate their ideas, the audience is exposed to new ideas in the SJSU community, said Betty Makani-Lim, an associate professor in marketing and decision sciences and the coordinator of the fair.

Chris Purtill, a junior creative arts major, said he is in-

terested in attending the fair because he has never attended such an event.

"When I think about entrepreneurship," he said, "I think of a person becoming successful, living out their dreams or ideas."

Rubab Rizvi, a senior Japanese major, said the current economy needs entrepreneurs and that entrepreneurs cannot let the economy affect them.

"There needs to be things that people will want to spend their money on, especially things that improve quality of life or education," Rizvi said. "You can't cut back on those kinds of things."

Registration for the fair is open to students of all majors, but reaching out to non-business majors has been difficult. Basu said she wished to see more diversity in the future.

The four non-business majors the fair has had in the past are computer science, engineering, industrial design and hospitality management, she said.

Basu said many people think they cannot be entrepreneurs without having a large amount of financial support, so the fair also aims to dispel that belief.

David Vuong, a senior accounting major, said he has always been interested in design and innovation. He said he can only design things on paper and figure out how they might work because he does not have the resources to make his ideas a reality.

"I think it's a good thing in general as it gives people the opportunity to display what they made," he said, "which may either give them a second opinion or get recognized."

INSTANT FREE QUOTES

abcHealthInsurance.com

Incredible Rates

(408) 998-2425 • (800) 201-5900

99¢ Chicken?

SJSU Students receive leg + thigh
with any purchase
(one order per ID)
Expires Jan. 1st, 2009

ROPEYES

30 E. Santa Clara St. #140
(between 1st and 2nd St.)

Want cash?

Sell your textbooks and other non-fiction books

Get 10% more for your books. Use code **SJSU** at checkout.

Fast payment!
Instant online quotes
FREE shipping

www.sellyourbooks4cash.com

‘Big brother’ watches team through changes

MARCOS BLANCO
Staff Writer

DeVonte Thomas would play whenever lunchtime would come around.

Born on Nov. 20, 1986, in Los Angeles, Thomas started playing basketball when he was in the sixth grade.

Now, he is a senior sociology major and a foward for the SJSU men’s basketball team.

Thomas started playing on a team for a church league at Our Lady of the Rosary in Union City.

“It was fun, but the league was shaky,” he said. “Our team was like a family. I started liking basketball more and more.”

From there, Thomas went on to play basketball and football, as well as sprint for the track and field squad while at Kennedy High School in Fremont, according to SJSU Athletics.

“Trying to help the team, it was one of those things I was good at in high school.”

DEVONTE THOMAS
SJSU men’s basketball player

Now in his fourth season at SJSU, Thomas is on his way to becoming the first Spartan since the 2004 season to earn four varsity letters in men’s basketball, according to SJSU Athletics. Thomas said he feels like

the “big brother” on the team, which he has seen go through many changes and players.

“We still all like brothers, even though it’s a different group of guys,” he said. “When you become a Spartan, you’re taken in.”

Chris Oakes, a junior center for the team, said he first met Thomas when he was 12 years old and got to know him in high school.

“When I heard (DeVonte) was going to SJSU, I thought that was a great move,” he said. “He’s developed a lot since I’ve been here.”

Oakes said Thomas cares about all of his teammates.

“DeVonte is a really good teammate, not just on the court, but off the court as well,” he said. “He’s one of those glue guys. He would be one the first guys I would go to if I needed help.”

Head coach George Nessman said he recognizes the role Thomas has taken when it comes to being a team player.

“He’s a real positive person,” Nessman said. “He’s a very popular member of our team and has asserted much more of a leadership role.”

“Trying to help the team, it was one of those things I was good at in high school,” Thomas said.

In transitioning from high school basketball to college basketball, Thomas said he had to play a lot harder and condition differently.

“I had a college body and I had to be a lot smarter,” he said.

Thomas said Nessman has been a good source of guidance for him during the lastthree years that they’ve worked together.

“Coach Nessman has helped me grow as a person and helped me out when I was struggling,” he said.

Nessman also recognizes Thomas’ strength and athleticism on the court.

“He’s very athletic and very strong,” he said. “We rely on his strength and his explosiveness.”

Oakes agreed, calling Thomas as “a strong enforcer.”

Thomas also said he feels like he has more room for improvement in his game.

“I try to get better every day,” he said. “If I don’t get better every day, then I’m wasting my time.

“I’ve never gotten worse since I’ve been here. (I’ve) only gotten better.”

“He understands what he can and can’t do,” Nessman said.

Thomas said he was thinking about playing for the SJSU football team in 2009, but is more centered on basketball and his academic goals.

“I’m just focused on the season,” he said. “Our team this year — we have a good chance at doing something.”

Oakes said Thomas keeps things to himself, referring to his desire to play football next fall.

“He’s about the team and wants to finish up and get his degree,” he said.

“He has his academic goals together,” Nessman said. “I think he will be successful in what he wants to do.”



SJSU forward DeVonte Thomas attempts to shoot over Duke University forward Josh McRoberts at Cameron Indoor Stadium in Durham, N.C. on Dec. 31, 2006. Thomas scored six points in a 70-51 Spartans loss against the then-ranked No. 5 Blue Devils.

Fans, students don’t fill up arena’s seats Players say opposing schools draw much larger crowds than SJSU

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

He shoots. He scores.
The crowd goes wild.

Not the case for SJSU men’s and women’s basketball home games. This season, home game attendance has been significantly low compared with away games.

“When we played Nebraska it was harder because they have a huge, supportive crowd,” said senior guard DaShawn Wright about the Nov. 15 road game in Lincoln, Neb. against the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

According to the Nebraska Athletics Web site, the game had an estimated attendance of 6,491.

“They are yelling at you from the moment they step in the stadium to the moment they leave,” Wright said.

The men’s basketball team’s home game attendance was at a high of 1,126 on Nov. 19 against Cal Maritime, when the Spartans defeated the Keelhaulers 79-37. Basketball games are played in the Event Center, which has 5,000 seats.

“In previous years, we were bad and students still think we are,” said sophomore guard Lance Olivier. “We are doing good this season and I think we would do much better because if we had a bigger crowd, they would help us get more into it.”

Olivier and Wright said fan support is good for their team’s morale and gives them an advantage over the opponent.

“Fan interaction can definitely affect the outcome of the game,” Wright said. “Excited fans are important because they give the other team a harder time.”

Olivier said their opponents have an easy time playing in the



Empty seats are a common sight at the Event Center. CHRIS BAUSINGER / Spartan Daily

Event Center because the lack of fans provides an atmosphere that allows them to better concentrate on the game.

Men’s basketball head coach George Nessman said his players come ready to perform to their fullest regardless of the presence, or lack thereof, of a crowd.

“Sure we would rather see the stands full, but we are here to play for the love of competition,” he said.

Nessman added that the largest crowds come out for games against Bay Area rival Santa Clara. Nessman said he is expecting the attendance at tonight’s game against Santa Clara to be above average.

“There is a certain culture here at SJSU, and athletics isn’t a part of it,” he said. “We need to generate a home-court enthusiasm and train students to show up.”

People affiliated with SJSU were more interested in athletics 25 to 30 years ago because the teams were better, Nessman said.

“We are trying to reignite excitement for the game,” he said. “We are winning.”

The women’s team has yet to break into the thousands for game attendance. In its last game, a victory at home against Sacramento State, the attendance was 311.

“No matter what, we are athletes and as long as there is a team in front of us, we are fired up,” said senior guard Natalie White. “But of course we would perform better if we had more people watching.”

White said she thought low attendance could probably be due to the fact that SJSU is a commuter campus. If students are not on campus, they will not hear about the games, she said.

“It’s also about word-of-mouth,” she added. “If you aren’t on campus to hear about the basketball program, then you won’t be at the games.”

Like Olivier, White said fans are less likely to go to games and support a losing team.

“No one wants to watch someone lose,” she said. “But we are establishing a winning program and that will bring in the fans.”

Students and fans can actually help the teams win, senior guard DaShawn Wright said.

“We need them to come and yell and talk junk,” he said. “We need them to come and be excited and put on the pressure.”

BLOG

For updates on SJSU’s basketball teams

Go to spartandailysports.wordpress.com

Hoagie Steak Out

S 3rd St
E San Carlos

Discount With SJSU ID
Because We Love You

304 South 3rd Street
San Jose • 408.286.8811
hoagiesteakout.com

We Now Deliver!

Try Our Cheesesteaks Today!

Looking for a dentist at a convenient location?

We provide quality and stress-free dentistry for your entire family

FREE WHITENING FOR LIFE **

ADULT CLEANING AND EXAM ***

Services we offer:

- Teeth whitening, veneers, tooth-colored fillings
- Implants, Invisalign, crowns
- Individual treatment geared for patients
- Most insurance plans welcome
- Financing available

G. Kenji Akahoshi, DDS
Barbara Wu, DDS
Family and Cosmetic Dentistry
730 N. Capitol Ave., Ste. G-1
San Jose, CA 95131
www.northsanjose-dent.com
Call for an appointment today!
(408) 259-3313

** Get a complimentary whitening kit and custom trays with completed new-patient exam, cleaning, x-rays, and proposed treatment plan. Keep your kit, months we can visit and you will receive additional gel annually for the rest of your life. Patients must be free of dental decay and periodontal disease.
*** Cannot be combined with free whitening. New patients only. Offer is for cash payments only. Your insurance may cover it at full value. Does not include x-rays. Regular value \$125.

winterbreakwork.com/sjsu

MOVIE REVIEW

‘Milk’ captures the essence of gays’ triumph



Photos Courtesy of Focus Features

TOP LEFT: Sean Penn (left) portrays gay rights activist Harvey Milk and Victor Garber portrays San Francisco Mayor George Moscone in a scene from “Milk.”

LEFT: The gay pride flag waves above a crowd in a scene from “Milk.”

TOP RIGHT: Sean Penn (Harvey Milk) is surrounded by supporters in “Milk.”

JASON LE MIERE
Staff Writer

Should there be one criticism of director Gus Van Sant’s new movie, “Milk,” it would be that it should have been released prior to the voting on Proposition 8.

“Milk” is a biopic on Harvey Milk, the first openly gay person to be elected to major office in the U.S., when he became a San Francisco County Supervisor in 1977.

Upon viewing it, the comparison to the recent struggle for gay rights in California and in other states is inescapable.

The excellent portrayal of the story by both the actors and director means that one’s attention throughout the film is focused on the issues that the movie deals with, rather than how it deals with them.

Sean Penn takes the lead as Harvey Milk, a New Yorker who moves into San Francisco’s Castro District in the early ’70s and fights against hostile discrimination, turning the area into a gay mecca.

Milk realizes that the only way to achieve a move toward equal rights for all homosexuals is to get into political office.

Despite several unsuccessful elections, Milk’s resilience shines through as he is finally elected to San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors.

Milk’s struggles are far from over, however. Fellow Supervisor Dan White, played by Josh Brolin, becomes frustrated with Milk’s refusal to play political ball and support his proposals.

White’s sad and aggressive resentment, further intensified by Milk’s burgeoning success, fore-

shadows an impending disaster disclosed upon the beginning of the film.

It is always a great challenge for a movie to keep viewers enthralled when they are already aware of the story’s conclusion. “Milk” deals with this particular problem admirably. Brolin does an exceptional job with a challenging role and conveys the bitterness and hostility building up in White, creating the tension as we see him reach his breaking point.

It would be difficult for even the most vigorous Prop. 8 supporters not to feel heart-wrenching compassion for his struggles.

A sense of nervous tension as the movie works its way to its inevitable, tragic climax also says much for the endearment that has been built for Milk.

Penn captures the loving nature of Milk so well that it would be difficult for even the most vigorous Prop. 8 supporters not to feel heart-wrenching compassion for his struggles, sacrifices and, ultimately, death.

He portrays Milk equally as caring and funny in his personal life and passionate and eloquent in the political realm.

Penn is aided by a wonderful supporting cast led by Emile Hirsch, who once again provides a glimpse of his growing talents and potential as rebel rouser Cleve Jones. Diego Luna also gives a memorably comedic and ultimately tragic cameo as the flamboyant Jack Lira.

Also deserving of mention is James Franco, best known for his role as Peter Parker’s buddy in the “Spider-Man” trilogy. He plays Scott Smith, the true love of Milk’s life. Franco is so able in his role that his character becomes a vivid representation of how Milk’s political struggles take a great toll on his personal life.

Like many of the actors in this movie, Franco merits credit not only for his convincing portrayal of his character, but for the bravery in taking on and delivering in

of affection, they are tastefully done to highlight the passion and sincerity rather than the sexuality and controversy.

Van Sant, best known for his success as an art house director, has made a successful transition back to the mainstream with this project. He shoots the movie in such a way that the audience is put smack in the middle of 1970s San Francisco.

Van Sant smoothly introduces archive footage of the real events, so much so that it takes a moment to be sure of whether you are watching movie footage or actual news coverage.

Because of its challenging themes and the conservative nature of much of the audience across the country, everyone connected with this project deserves credit for making a movie that will struggle to be a commercial success. Regardless, this movie deserves to be a milestone for the treatment of homosexuality in Hollywood and for the struggle for gay rights.

It's Hot Dog Time!



Try our all-American hot dog with an Asian twist

\$4.49
with this ad expires Dec. 31, 2008

Meal includes: hot dog, fries, and fountain drink.

111 Paseo de San Antonio Ph. 408.275.9491
(S. 3rd between San Carlos and San Fernando)
- Dine In - Take Out - Catering -

Vegetarian House

Organic Vegan Cuisine

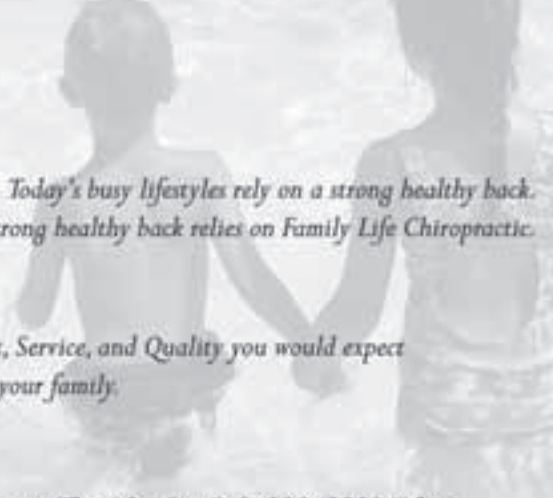


15% OFF
for ALL students
& staff with
presentation of ID!

BE VEG... GO GREEN.
SAVE THE PLANET
www.SupremeMasterTV.com

520 E. Santa Clara, San Jose
408.292.3798
www.vegetarianhouse.us

Home Is Where Your Back Is



Today's busy lifestyles rely on a strong healthy back.
A strong healthy back relies on Family Life Chiropractic.

The Comfort, Service, and Quality you would expect
for you and your family.

Mention This Ad & Pay Only \$20 (\$250 Value)
Includes:
-Computer Scan -Chiropractic Exam
-Consultation -X-rays
-2nd Day Reports of Results

Family Life Chiropractic
408-298-8092 | 115 Paseo de San Antonio
www.familylifechiropractic.com

City and university celebrate collaboration at the Tech

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

A crowd of about 100 people celebrated the accomplishments of the partnership between SJSU and the city of San Jose at the Tech Museum of Innovation on Monday.

“This event is a way to recognize city and university partnerships,” said Dayana Salazar, the executive director of CommUniverCity. “Particularly after the success of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, a number of other projects have been emerging.”

The event honored the contributors of eight recent projects

involving the partnership, which included South Campus area planning, public sector career initiative and the integration of the campus with downtown.

Speakers at the event included SJSU President Jon Whitmore, San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, and Larry Carr, associate vice president of public affairs at SJSU.

Carr said SJSU and the city of San Jose have an excellent partnership.

“Most universities and cities work out their deals in court,” Carr said. “There are very few who do it like this.”

Since he graduated in 1992

from SJSU, Carr said the city and university have become more connected.

“The city has become more accessible to SJSU, and SJSU has become more accessible to the city,” he said. “The library is a big part. It is not one-sided. There is a city side and a university side.”

Whitmore said monuments such as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library were built through collaborations between SJSU and the city of San Jose.

“We are known as a model for other universities,” Whitmore said.

One theme of the event was

great cities have great universities, and Reed confirmed that San Jose was a great city with a great university.

Terry Christensen, the first executive director of CommUniverCity and an SJSU political science professor, said the city has been affected by students who have helped change city policies.

“We can do things that they can’t do,” Christensen said. “We can do health and education.”

The second part of the event was a tour of the exhibit, “Leonardo: 500 Years Into the Future.”

Salazar said the tour, which displays a variety of artwork from Leonardo da Vinci and other artists from the Renaissance, was a bonus for attending the celebration.

“It’s an amazing opportunity,” said David Whitman, a project manager for the Tech Museum and a narrator of the tour. “This is the only place in the world like this. It’s an opportunity to delve into the Renaissance and Leonardo.”

Whitman said the art show can change ones perception of time. “Five hundred years into the future is a perfect name for the exhibit,” he said. “When you step into here, you forget it’s the 21st century.”

Ely Alexander of San Francisco said the art was incredible.

“It is more detailed than I ever could have thought,” he said. “The time it must have taken to reproduce this work, it’s really great.”

Students in CommUniverCity helped organize the event.

“Most of the staff is students,” said Fabio Andrade,

CAMPUSIMAGES



Christopher Sean Chen, an industrial design major, uses a lathe, a cylindrical sanding machine, to design a bottle out of high-density foam in the Art Building on Tuesday evening. **DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily**

project coordinator of CommUniverCity and a public administration graduate student. “We work as project organizers. We put everything together.”

Andrade said that SJSU could become a resource for Northern California.

“San Jose State is trying to

become a point reference for Silicon Valley,” Andrade said. “It is trying to make its partnership with the city more visible.”

Salazar said that along with CommUniverCity, the event was organized by San Jose’s Department of Housing and the Office of Economic Development.

Classifieds

HOUSING

SJSU INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

- * One block from campus
- * US and International Students
- * Safe, Friendly, Homelike
- * Intercultural Experience
- * Wireless Internet Access
- * Computer Lab/ Study Room
- * Student Kitchen
- * Assigned Parking (fees)
- * One semester contract

Apply now! 360 S. 11th Street, 924-6570 or sjsu.edu/ihouse

EMPLOYMENT

JOIN THE ARMY Many Army reserve units offer the Education Career Stabilization program, which allows deferment from mobilization and deployment - giving you an uninterrupted path to complete your college degree. You can still take advantage of the Reserve’s training, career training, and all benefits. If you qualify, benefits include tuition assistance in the form of the current GI Bill of \$317 a month for full time students w/ an extra \$100-\$350 “kicker” per month, tuition assistance (\$4500 per academic year); student loan repayment up to \$20,000, TRICARE Reserve health/dental, space available travel, tax free/ discounted shopping on any base (to include groceries), retirement and numerous other benefits. Student must enroll as a full time (12 hrs or equivalent) or part time (6 hrs or equivalent) and maintain a 2.0. For more information to see if you are eligible, in San Jose call 408-259-7185.

DRIVERS WANTED Drivers wanted to transport and operate cleaning equipment. Flexible hrs. Spanish req. \$11/ hr+ DOE. Please call (408) 330-9350.

AFTER SCHOOL TEACHERS

K-8th private school seeks responsible individuals for extended day-care, P/ T in the afternoon (2:30-6pm M-F). No ECE units required. Previous experience with children a must. Please call 248-2464. (408)244-1968 (408)244-1968

ALMADEN VALLEY ATHLETIC CLUB seeking professional, self-motivated and energetic individuals who demonstrate excellence in customer service for the following positions: member services desk, cafe service, personal trainer, swim teacher, child care provider, tennis instructor. Please forward your resume to Stephanie at smudgett@avac.us.

SPERM DONORS NEEDED Earn up to \$1200/month. California Cryobank is seeking healthy males for its sperm donor program. Apply online at www.spermbank.com

SURVEY TAKERS NEEDED: Make \$5-\$25 per survey. Do it in your spare time. [www. GetPaidTo-Think.com](http://www.GetPaidTo-Think.com)

FREELANCER NEEDED for promotions. Must be computer savvy. Looking for internet advertising to help promote personal business endeavors. For more information please call Norman at (408) 329-3910.

DRIVERS WANTED Drivers wanted to transport and operate cleaning equipment. Flexible hrs. Spanish req. \$11/ hr+ DOE. Please call (408) 330-9350.

ATTENTION: SJSU STUDENTS WORK DURING WINTER BREAK

* PART-TIME OPENINGS

*17.70 BASE-appt

Vector, the company for students, has part-time openings available for customer sales/ service. The positions offer numerous unique benefits for students:

- * HIGH STARTING PAY
- * FLEXIBLE SCHEDULES
- * Continue P/ T Spring semester
- * Internships possible
- * All majors may apply
- * Scholarships awarded annually
- * Some conditions apply
- * No experience necessary
- * Training provided

Our organization has experienced a 54% growth rate in 2008! Interview now, start after finals.

San Jose 408 866-1100
Monterey 831 372-1771
Mtn View 650 940-9400
San Mateo 650 212-1211
San Fransco 415 239-9520
Fremont 510 790-2100
Oakland 510 251-9002

EARN EXTRA MONEY

Students needed ASAP

Earn up to \$150 per day being a mystery shopper

No Experience Required

Call 1-800-722-4791

SERVICES

FIXLAPTOP.COM BUY SELL REPAIR Laptop & Parts Repair PC Data Recovery Remove Virus Rental Trade Laptop & Parts (408)469-5999

PETE'S STOP TIRE AUTO REPAIR SJSU students 10% off. Import & Domestic. 299 Keyes St @ 7th St. (408)294-3240

VOLUNTEERS

YWCA-SV Volunteer For Project Inspire After School Program. -Be a tutor or a mentor! -Make a difference at James Lick, Yerba Buena, Overfelt, or Andrew Hill High School. Interested candidates please contact: Carolina Avalos, Volunteer Coordinator, at (408) 510-4281 or cavalos@ywca-sv.org

DISCLAIMER

The Spartan Daily makes no claim for products or services advertised below nor is there any guarantee implied. The classified columns of the Spartan Daily consist of paid advertising and offers are not approved or verified by the newspaper. Certain advertisements in these columns may refer the reader to specific telephone numbers or addresses for additional information. Classified readers should be reminded that, when making these further contacts, they should require complete information before sending money for goods or services. In addition, readers should carefully investigate all firms offering employment listings or coupons for discount vacations or merchandise.

CLASSIFIED AD RATE INFORMATION

Each line averages 25 spaces.

Each letter, number, punctuation mark, and space is formatted into an ad line. The first line will be set in bold type and upper case for no extra charge up to 20 spaces. A minimum of three lines is required.

Deadline is 10:00 am , 2-weekdays prior to publication.

MINIMUM THREE LINE CLASSIFIED AD:

DAYS: 1 2 3 4

RATE: \$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00 \$25.00

\$2.50 EACH ADDITIONAL LINE AFTER THE THIRD LINE.

\$3.00 EACH ADDITIONAL DAY.

• RATES ARE CONSECUTIVE DAYS ONLY. -ALL ADS ARE PREPAID.

• NO REFUNDS ON CANCELLED ADS.

Classifieds may be placed online at www.thespartandaily.com under “Ad Info”

FREQUENCY DISCOUNT: 40+ consecutive issues: 10% discount

SJSU STUDENT RATE: 10% discount.

Ads must be placed in person in DBH 209 from 10 AM or 3PM.

STUDENT ID REQUIRED.

Rate applies to student’s individual ads only. Not intended for businesses and/or other persons.

Frequency discount does not apply.

www.thespartandaily.com

TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- Mystique
- Planets and moons
- Jungfrau or Eiger
- Pow!
- Takes the bait
- Cutting tools
- Bonkers
- Pleasure trip
- Seine aits
- Frozen dessert
- Murkiest
- Killer whale
- Colorful carp
- Have a hunch
- Bilked
- Make serve again
- Cliff dwelling, now
- Cry of dismay (2 wds.)
- Songwriter Janis
- Deceitful
- Sugary drink
- Watch winder
- Sign on a diner
- Fiber optics pulse
- Skylines
- Entree go-withs
- Afire
- Lamb’s pen name
- Poker face
- Pushcart owner
- Leer
- Ebbets Field great
- More than serious
- Fasten securely
- Warehouse
- OPEC member
- Compass dir.
- Blocks, as a stream
- Bird habitat

DOWN

- Hole punchers
- Yikes! (hyph.)
- Sports event

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

A	M	B	O	S		D	A	P	S		Y	A	L	E
L	O	A	T	H		A	B	A	T		A	L	E	X
M	O	T	T	O		N	O	A	A		W	A	V	E
A	S	H		O		C	O	C	C		R	E	N	C
						S	L	I	C	E		P	E	K
E	T	H	A	N	S		V	A	L	I	D			
C	H	E	M			R	E	L	I	C		P	A	D
H	U	B	B	L	E		T	E	L	E	S	C	O	P
O	D	A		E	M	E	R	Y		A	S	S	N	
				S	E	U	S			B	A	S	S	E
				F	L	A	K			C	A	U	S	E
P	A	I	N	S	T	A	K	I	N	G		S	P	A
H	I	R	E		W	I	L	T		E	P	S	O	M
E	R	A	S		I	D	E	E		R	H	O	N	E
W	E	S	T		N	E	E	D		S	I	R	E	N

10-20-08 © 2008 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

- Lovey-dovey
- Thing
- Lasso
- Heat unit
- Broadcast
- Linchpin site
- Brenda and Bruce
- Furtive whisper
- Tomato grower’s chore
- Japanese martial art
- Imported cheese
- Howard or Perlman
- Dublin folk
- Groovy
- Radio dial
- Pleases
- Team stats
- Dalai Lama’s city
- Concluded
- Go-getters
- Tatum’s dad
- One-piece garment
- Not as cold
- Fixed the table
- Genie’s master
- Energy
- Icy downpours
- Downs (racetrack)
- Curved roof
- Freud’s concerns
- First-aid plant
- Require
- Trevi Fountain coins
- Geologic divisions
- Tore apart
- It banned DDT

SUDOKU

Difficulty: 1 (of 5)

2				4	8		1
	1		8		9		4
		4	1	5		3	
				1	4	9	
	5	1	6		9		8
7	3				6		
				2	3		
3	6	2			4		
9		7	5	6			2

10-6-08 © JFS/KF -- Dist. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

6	7	2	1	3	8	4	9	5
3	4	5	9	2	7	1	8	6
1	9	8	6	4	5	2	3	7
8	6	9	4	7	3	5	1	2
7	3	1	2	5	9	8	6	4
5	2	4	8	6	1	3	7	9
2	1	3	7	9	4	6	5	8
4	5	7	3	8	6	9	2	1
9	8	6	5	1	2	7	4	3

Knowledge that’s no fun to have



DAVID
ZUGNONI

RECYCLED
TOILET PAPER

I haven’t bought into the idea that the United States is making its time in Iraq and Afghanistan worthwhile, but what four veterans said earlier this month in front of a panel of lawmakers from the Progressive Congressional Caucus about the ongoing occupation there was shocking.

The veterans said they were told by

Former Marine Corps sniper Sergio Kochergin said prescription drugs were given to troops “like candy, to keep us down.”

their superiors to kill anybody wielding as much as a bag and a shovel, force people to their knees and threaten execution, then shoot into the air, and place an AK-47 next to the dead body of any innocent person to create the illusion that the person was a legitimate threat.

Former Marine Corps sniper Sergio Kochergin said prescription drugs were given to troops “like candy, to

keep us down.” He said several soldiers contemplated suicide and his roommate indeed took his own life.

He asked, “Where is all the money going?” referring to the shoddy equipment, unprotected vehicles and broken computers that were not replaced during one of his six-month deployments.

“If there is no care for their own Marines, what care do you have for the people of Iraq?” he asked.

I’ll spare further details, but the veterans offered plenty of other examples accusing their chains of command of blatant mismanagement and questioning the government’s choice to enter Iraq in the first place.

Sounds like the war on terror is really a war of terror.

Oh, but many of us already see it that way, and those who don’t have already heard the argument.

Furthermore, what good does it do to know about what’s going on over there when most people here can’t do anything about it?

What good did it do me to sit through a dry, hour-long video of these testimonies, which I did with great interest?

Why does a kid like to throw a rock into water? The kid knows there will be ripples, but he still wants to see them over and over.

Why must we know what’s going on? Are we nosy? Do we feel this knowledge makes us better people? I admit, one reason I watched those tes-

timonies was to reinforce my opposition of the war.

If I’m going to be passionate about something, I better know about it. I think that the level of our passions needs to be matched by the level of our knowledge. Passion without knowledge is ignorant. Knowledge without passion is useless.

We often find ourselves digging for information in some dark places, finding death, tragedy, torture, pain, conflict and other signs that this world isn’t perfect. It seems peace and harmony just don’t do it for us.

Does that make us bad people? I don’t think so.

Doing bad things can be so easy, as they are often done as an immediate reaction or “in the heat of passion,” and the knowledge of past tragedies can balance out such passion.

There’s the saying, “If we do not learn from our failures, we are bound to repeat them.”

It is usually used to support the importance of history education, but I think we can all take the saying to a smaller degree and apply it to our lives.

Spread out your knowledge. Direct your passion.

“Recycled Toilet Paper” appears every Wednesday. David Zugnoni is the Spartan Daily executive editor.

Wrestling with the decision of being an organ donor



JASON
LE MIERE

Protect the remains of your lost loved one, or save the life of somebody else.

That appears to be the essence of the debate over whether the donation of organs after one’s death should be presumed.

Earlier this month in the United Kingdom, a panel of experts, known as the U.K. Organ Donation Taskforce, rejected the concept of “presumed consent” when dealing with organ donation.

Under the plan, people would be eligible to have their organs donated after death, unless they sign up for an opt-out list. This compares with the current situation in the U.K. where people must sign up to an organ donor register, or have their families agree, before their organs can be harvested.

The new strategy was dreamt up as a way to increase numbers of organ donations. The panel turned it down, however, claiming that there was little chance of it boosting donation rates, according to BBC News.

Like the U.K., the system in the U.S. is one of informed consent. In this case, individuals can choose to be an organ donor after their death, when they apply for a driver’s license.

Many countries in Europe have already adopted “presumed consent” for organ donations.

For some, Spain in particular, donation rates have increased.

There are several reasons why it is better to assume organ donation after death, rather than requiring people to sign up for it, or their families to agree to it after death.

I myself am a perfect example of one of the reasons. Given the choice, after I die I would want my organs to be donated. I have not, however, made the active move to get my name on an organ donation register.

It’s just another one of those things that I keep meaning to get down to, but never have. So, if I get a bit too pushy with my interview subject tomorrow and he decides to put a bullet in my head, my organs will be buried six feet under, rather than potentially saving somebody’s life.

Of course, there is still the chance that my parents will decide to have my organs donated. At a time of such grief,

Given the choice, after I die I would want my organs to be donated.

though, I wouldn’t blame them for wanting to preserve my body as they knew it. Can we really blame anyone for making that decision?

There seems to be a plethora of myths that surrounds the concept of organ donation that has clouded the issue.

According to a New York Times article, some people believe that those who are registered as organ donors will be left to die, rather than saved in a hospital, so their organs can be procured.

One of the members of the taskforce in the U.K., Elisabeth Buggins, claimed that people are afraid that their organs will be taken from them whilst they are still alive.

The new plan in the U.K. to spend more than \$6.7 million on a public awareness campaign will certainly help eradicate these grave misconceptions and a similar scheme should be implemented in the United States.

But it still does not go far enough. In the U.K., 1,000 people die every year waiting for a transplant, according to BBC News. While introducing a scheme of “presumed consent” would not save all of those lives, it is worth adopting even if it only saves one, rather than having viable organs rotting in the dirt.

Jason Le Miere is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

Life is an ever-changing highway



COLLEEN
WATSON

CHRONICLING
MEDIOCRITY

Do you ever wonder if maybe you took a wrong turn somewhere? I mean, all of a sudden you look up and have no idea where you are or how you got there.

So you look back at your route and think, “OK, well then if I go back to here and try again, I should get to where I want to be.”

Except that you can’t really go back. So instead, you try to make changes that you hope will lead you to the path that you want to be on.

I’m not going to mention yellowed leaves or how “way leads on to way,” I figure in a world with more than 6 billion people that the road less traveled has still seen thousands, possibly millions, of feet. And in the end, it doesn’t matter how many people took that road, but that it was the right road for you.

A couple of years ago, I realized I was not where I wanted to be and would have to make some serious changes to my life if I was to get to where I wanted to go.

So I turned my life upside down and jumped to a different highway — one I thought would get me where I wanted.

Except, I lost some things along the way.

Now, I’m not sure that I wouldn’t have lost them on the other road, but they are still gone.

With all these changes, is my life better then it would have been? I have no idea.

I do feel like I am finally steering. I am choosing where I am going instead of just coasting along in a daze, randomly looking out the windshield into a miasma of unfamiliar landscapes.

The hard part of all this driving is that I can’t tell if I made the right decisions along the way. I can only look back when I have distance and perspective to objectively look at the different things that I’ve done.

When I look back at almost three decades of travel, I sometimes ask myself, would I have done anything differently?

Now, I don’t know if the answer will be the same in five years, but right now I can say no, I wouldn’t change anything.

Yes, I have made some huge mistakes. Yes, I have royally regretted more than a few decisions. But I’ve learned

something from every one of those mistakes and hope I am a little smarter because of them. Sure, I still cringe or even tear up at the thought of some of them, but they are still my experiences and they make me who I am.

On this road, everything is important. It’s the pit stops, dead ends, nonsensical conversations that last until 4 a.m., hitchhikers you pick up, fights, accidents, tears and everything along the way. Because the final stop is death, you might as well have as much fun as you can until you get there.

When I look back at the map that has been my life, it is definitely not a straight line. I’ve made many a U-turn, detour and back track. I’ve gotten flat tires and dead batteries. Overall, I’ve had a really good time.

I’ve heard that it’s not the destination that is important but the journey, and I hope to keep that in mind as I take a new turn.

Of course that doesn’t hold true if your destination is Disneyland, because that is the happiest place on Earth. Then, it’s all about the destination.

“Chronicling Mediocrity” appears every Wednesday. Colleen Watson is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.

Spartan Daily

Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209
One Washington Square
San Jose, CA 95192-0149
News: 408-924-3281
Advertising: 408-924-3270
Fax: 408-924-3282
News e-mail: spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu
Ad e-mail: spartandailyads@casa.sjsu.edu
DAVID ZUGNONI, Executive Editor
JOHN HORNBERG, Managing Editor
COLLEEN WATSON, Opinion Editor
MARK POWELL, Sports Editor
TOMMY WRIGHT, Sports Editor
ANGELO LANHAM, Student Culture Editor
KIMBERLY TSAO, Student Culture Editor
DINA BASLAN, Features Editor
CARLOS A. MORENO, Photo Editor
WILLIAM COOLEY, Online Editor
JESSE KIMBREL, Assistant Editor
MEGAN HAMILTON, Production Editor
MATTHEW MOUNTFORD, Production Editor
CHRIS BAUSINGER, Copy Editor
SARAH KYO, Copy Editor
RAMON HERNANDEZ, Advertising Director
MEGAN ROCKO, Assistant Advertising Director
DERRICK CHEW, Creative Director
KRISTI RIGGS, Assistant Creative Director
EMILY JAMES, Creative Assistant

STAFF WRITERS
JOEY AKELEY
MARCOS BLANCO
RYAN BUCHAN
YA-AN CHAN
CHRIS CURRY
BIANCA deCASTRO
JOHN ELLIS
KELLY ENOS
ALLIE FIGURES
ANDREA FRAINIER
ANDREW HERNDON
PETER HIRONAKA
MATTHEW KIMEL
JASON LE MIERE
ELISHA MALDONADO
KAAJAL MORAR
ADAM MURPHY
HEATHER NACHT
RIE NAKANISHI
CHRISSY RAMONEDA
SELMA SKOKIC
CORINNE SPECKERT
RICHARD STERN
DANIELLE TORRALBA
JON XAVIER

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS
ADAM BROWNE
TARA DUFFY

PHOTOGRAPHERS
MIKE ANDERSON
HANK DREW
CINTHIA RODRIGUEZ
DEREK SIJDER
ANDREW VILLA

ADVISERS
RICHARD CRAIG, News
MACK LUNDSTROM, News
JAN SHAW, News
MICHAEL CHEERS, Photojournalism
TIM HENDRICK, Advertising
TIM BURKE, Production Chief
TIM MITCHELL, Design
JOHN SHRADER, Multimedia

ADVERTISING STAFF
VANESSA ALESSI
CHRIS AMAREL
MICHAEL AU
MARINA BOBROVICH
FRANK BOOKER III
NICK BURGGRAFF
AMY CHOU
PHUONG DUONG
MICHELLE EBNER
KRISTEN ELVERT
ANNISSA HAN
LILIANA HERNANDEZ
ALLISON JONES
SARA LAXSON
T.J. MIMS
THUY NGUYEN
MICHELLE VO

OPINION PAGE POLICY

Letters to the editor may be placed in the letters to the editor box in the Spartan Daily office in Dwight Bentel Hall, Room 209, sent by fax to (408) 924-3282, e-mailed to spartandaily@casa.sjsu.edu or mailed to the Spartan Daily Opinion Editor, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, San Jose State University, One Washington Square, San Jose, CA 95112-0149. Letters to the editor must contain the author’s name, address, phone number, signature and major. Letters become property of the Spartan Daily and may be edited for clarity, grammar, libel and length. Only letters of 300 words or less will be considered for publication. Published opinions and advertisements do not necessarily reflect the views of the Spartan Daily, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications or SJSU. The Spartan Daily is a public forum.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We wouldn’t have asked for the \$4 billion if we didn’t need it.”

FREDERICK HENDERSON

The president of General Motors said about the cash request for federal assistance.

theSpartanDaily.com POLL

Will the SJSU men’s basketball team beat Santa Clara tonight?

After 29 years, Christmas in the Park continues to light up downtown



Silhouettes of the Ferris wheel and city tree can be seen as the sun sets on Christmas in the Park in Downtown San Jose on Tuesday evening. **WILLIAM COOLEY / Spartan Daily**



Top: Cyclists look over the gauntlet of decorated trees as they ride down the walkway at Christmas in the Park. **WILLIAM COOLEY / Spartan Daily**

Above: The sun shines through a spinning merry-go-round at Christmas in the Park in Downtown San Jose on Tuesday evening.

KAJAL MORAR
Staff Writer

Twinkling red and green lights, uplifting holiday music and laughing children can be seen and heard long before reaching Plaza de Cesar Chavez in Downtown San Jose.

Surrounding a 25-foot Christmas tree, displays depicting motorized bears, reindeer and elves captivate old and young passers-by alike. A light of joy washes upon children's faces as the snow machines sprinkle white snow-like material into the air.

Christmas in the Park, a free event running from Nov. 28 to Jan. 1, has been a part of downtown San Jose's community for 29 years, said Martie Degutis, vice president of the Christmas in the Park board of directors.

"Our mission here is to provide a gift of magic and joy for the community," Degutis said.

According to the Christmas in the Park Web site, Don Lima, a local community leader, set up a display in 1950 in front of his mortuary on Willow St.

"And it got so crowded down there," said Dee Degutis, Martie Degutis' husband, "it was impossible for people to even get into their own homes."

In 1970, Lima donated his displays to the city of San Jose, according to the Web site.

There was a major energy crisis and the displays had to be taken down, Degutis said. It wasn't until 1980 that the displays were set up in downtown again.

"We did not have all these displays," he said. "We started at the south end of the park, with about 10 or 15 displays. From there, it built up."

"Right now, we're trying to be a green park," Degutis said. "All the lights we have in here are all LEDs."

LEDs are light-emitting diodes, which are more environmentally friendly because the bulb is made from plastic and more of the energy produces light instead of heat, according to the How Stuff Works Web site.

Plastic fences are being integrated instead of wood fences as part of the green movement, Degutis said.

About 400 visitors spent time at the park on Saturday, the second day it was open. Many of the visitors are not San Jose resi-

dents, Degutis said.

"We have people coming in from Fremont, from Placerville, from Tahoe," he said. "We have people in here from Germany, from Austria, from Japan coming through here."

Kalyan Bala, a Fremont resident, said, "We've been coming for six or seven years."

Janani Kalyan, Bala's 3-year-old daughter, said, "I like everything."

Meena Pitchiah said, "We like all of the different ornaments, surroundings (and) sponsors."

First-time visitor Rebecca Squyres, from Southern California, said, "We love the displays."

Squyres said that because she lives in a small town, her town doesn't have an event as large as Christmas in the Park.

Six-year-old Annie Squyres said, "I like, mostly, the bears riding," describing one of the displays at the north end of the park.

Because of the large amount of displays and concession stands, it takes a large amount of time and effort to set up in the plaza.

"It takes us about two-and-a-half weeks to set it up," Dee Degutis said. "That's from ground zero, all the way up."

In its earlier stages, volunteers could set everything up by hand, he said. Now, many of the stands require trailers to bring to the park.

"Over time, things will break down a little bit," said Joyce Clark, secretary for the board of directors.

Martie Degutis said, "Our volunteer hours run to usually about 260,000 hours a year."

She added that students spend time volunteering.

"We have a huge volunteer student force from the high schools," she said. "They clean the displays, lights. They do basic repairs. They wash fences. They paint."

Mark West, a student volunteer who has been spending his time at the park for about five years, said he loves returning every year because, "I love helping out my community."

West said he wanted to volunteer for Christmas in the Park since he was a child.

"I loved Christmas in the Park when I was a little boy. The displays, the spirit of it, the trees, and just seeing everybody so happy around the Christmas holidays," he said.

His enthusiasm for helping out has infected his friends and family. He convinced his mother to volunteer, and she now helps in the information booth.

Others also lend their time to help set up.

"We can give back to the public and we like giving to the kids," said Santa Claus while handing candy to children. "We believe we should be open 365 days a year."

Santa said he met his wife 22 years ago when they both volunteered at the park.

Christmas in the Park is a family-based event, said Martie Degutis.

"All you have to do is look around you. Look under the snow machines when they go off and the kids start dancing under them. When Santa (Claus) comes, the line goes around the house."

"I think it unites a lot of people," West said. "Everything brings everybody closer together."

There is no fee needed to join the festivities in Christmas in the Park, said both Degutis and her husband.

"We wholeheartedly depend on contributions coming in," said Dee Degutis. "If we could collect a dollar from every person that came in here, we could run this operation for two years."

When Christmas in the Park isn't running, the board of directors creates fundraisers to help collect money to host the displays each year, said Martie Degutis.

The main fundraising event held is "Christmas in July," which is held on the third Saturday of July every year, she said.

"We bring a lot of Christmas decorations down. We have a live band. We do a silent auction. The local restaurants downtown donate hors d'oeuvres," Degutis said. "And they're very, very supportive. It gets people geared to coming to the park and helping us out and maybe sponsoring something else as an introduction to things."

With more than 400 sponsors, finding supportive groups, residents and corporations is usually successful, she said.

"When it's all said and done and the work is over, I love seeing their smiles, I love seeing people and family members come down," West said.

Audio Slideshow

For additional photos go to www.TheSpartanDaily.com

Get The Kinks Out

Mark Your Calenders for
1/13/2009 at 6:00pm
A Great Event is Coming Your Way

San Jose Holistic Health Care Clinic

We treat sport, car accident, work,
and personal injuries.
We accept most insurances

Downtown San Jose
Between Santa Clara and 12th St.
551 Santa Clara St. San Jose, CA, 95112
(408) 294-7692
www.holistic-health.com

AXE STUDY ABROAD

LEARN TO SPEAK THE Language OF LOVE

www.axestudyabroad.com

The AXE Study Abroad Program
Immerse yourselves in the Romance languages and impress the girls back home.

You and your friends will be going on a premium adventure into the heart of Europe. Your "application fee" is simply the UPC code on any AXE product. Choose from these titillating AXE Study Abroad locations for all of you to enjoy together:

Madrid, Spain
Everyone takes a nap in the afternoon. Dinner starts at 11:30pm. Nightclubs serve breakfast. This place is a college guy's utopia. Take in the nightlife with hot *senoritas* who prefer to frolic into the afterhours.

Paris, France
The French have given mankind existentialism, whipped cream and the ménage à trois. Learn why Paris is known as the city of romance, and get to know firsthand the age-old art of French kissing.

Rome, Italy
For some reason, the girls in Rome like to strip down and jump into fountains. Thankfully, there are hundreds of beautiful fountains around the city. Live *la Vita Dura* with a bevy of beauties who can't wait to take you home to their mamas.

Winners of the AXE Study Abroad Program will receive the following:

- 6 days/5 nights for four in a 4-star hotel
- Round trip air travel for four provided by Orbitz.com
- Travel bags provided by Marmot
- A Flip Video camera to create your, ahem, educational videos
- And \$500 in spending money for each traveler

Program partners

ORBITZ **Marmot** **Flip**

*The Promotion does not award any class or studies nor does it provide any university course credit.